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28 July 1950

JCS
WGL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE:

Subject: Photo Reconnaissance of Certain Portions of the China Coast.

1. In view of the operational commitments of the U.S. Seventh Fleet in Korea and in the Taiwan area, it is considered vital that we obtain advance knowledge of Communist intentions to launch an amphibious assault against Taiwan. Existing sources of information do not ensure that we will obtain the advance knowledge required to defeat such an attack.

2. Current intelligence indicates that sufficient build-up of troops and water lift now exist on the China coast for launching an invasion of Taiwan. Estimates of Chinese Communist air strength indicate that moderate air support would be available for an assault. It is doubtful, however, that information of an imminent attack may be obtained except through photographic reconnaissance.

3. It is recommended that the necessary political clearance be obtained and that the Joint Chiefs of Staff be authorized to direct the Commander in Chief, Far East, to conduct periodic photographic reconnaissance flights over the coastal area of China south of the 32nd parallel of latitude with a view to determining the imminence of any attack that may be launched against Formosa.

DECLASSIFIED BY:
JCS-CCS DECLASSIFICATION
WORKING GROUP
DATE 25 Nov 74

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

SIGNED

A. C. DAVIS
Rear Admiral, USN
Director, The Joint Staff

Copies to:
Chairman, JCS
Asst C/S, G-3
Asst to CNO (JCS)
Director, P&O Air

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cc: Director J/S
Orig & 2 ccs toSec/Def
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